We Love When…

(Selected Scriptures from John's Gospel)
12/3/06

Introduction: "Is it in you?" - John 5:42

- ***How do you know whether or not you have God's Love in you?***

I. **We Love when <u>God</u> becomes our <u>Father</u>** (John 8:42)
(Love is obtained by Spiritual Rebirth)

II. **We Love when <u>Christ</u> becomes our <u>Example</u>** (John 13:34-35; 15:12; 17)
(Love resembles the Master)

III. **We Love when <u>Bible Obedience</u> becomes our <u>Delight</u>** (John 14:15, 21, 23)
(Love obeys God's Word)

IV. **We Love when <u>Christian Unity</u> becomes a <u>Reality</u>** (John 17:20-<u>26</u>)
(Love Unites with God's People)

V. **We Love when <u>God's Concerns</u> become our <u>own</u>** (John 21:15-17)
(Love Cares for God's Family)

"Love is of God" (1 John 4:7); It comes from Him;
Do you have the Love of God in You?

We Love When…

(Selected Scriptures from John's Gospel)
12/3/06

Introduction: -

The reason we assemble each week is to provoke one another unto Love and to good works (which flow out of love). (Heb. 10:24)

The Greatest of all commands is to Love God and our neighbor.
Matthew 22:38-39
This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

> ***"The great commandment" -*** Which command is paramount? reigns supreme? ranks as the top? is first and foremost?
>
> Loving God is not merely a N.T. priority, but is an eternal priority that also applied to the Old Testament saint.
> SEE - Deut. 6:4-7 & Deut. 10:12
>
> HOW should we love God?
>
> "Heart . . . soul . . . mind. . . strength" = Love Him with your whole being; with everything you have.
>
> When we love God totally (with our whole being), He is:
>
> 1. The center of my affections
> "Heart" - my inner being which thinks, feels, and chooses (what I feel deeply about reflects what I love)
>
> 2. The center of my life
> "Soul" - the immaterial part of man as it relates to this life (what I live for reflects what I love).
>
> 3. The center of my thoughts
> "Mind" - my ideas, convictions, thoughts, philosophies of life should revolve around God. (what I spend my time thinking about [dwelling on, pondering] reflects what I love).
>
> 4. The center of my activity
> "Strength" - my physical ability (so translated in I Pet. 4:11), talents, etc., should be used for God (what I use my abilities on reflects my what I love)

If the greatest command is to love God, then the greatest sin is to not love Him!

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema" (I Cor. 16:22).

God foretold that in the last days men would be "lovers of their own selves . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:2, 4).
As the End draws near, lovelessness will be a sign: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Mt. 24:12).

V. 39

Note: Jesus does not command us to "love ourselves"; we automatically do already (Eph. 5:29 - *"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church")*

It is natural to love yourself; it is supernatural to love others int he same way as you love yourself.

How do you know when you are loving others the same way as you love yourself? Ask yourself: What do you do to help or benefit yourself? Do the same for others.

You are concerned about:
--Your relationship with God . . . then concern yourself with others'
--Your health, wealth, prosperity. . . then concern yourself with others'
--Your protection. . . then concern yourself with others'
--Your pleasure . . . then concern yourself with others'
--Your success . . . then concern yourself with others'

If you love God, totally, you will love others mutually.

A true love for God will manifest itself in a love for others who were made in God's image. No one can love God without loving our brother (I Jn. 4:20, 21).

Christ's combines Lev. 19:18 with Deut. 6:5 to summarize the whole Law.

V. 40
All of the Old Testament Law and prophets could be hung on these two commands. The pole that supports the hanger holding all of God's commands is love.

Rom. 13:9-10 - *"For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."*
Gal. 5:14 - *"For all the law if fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

The Lord Jesus Christ said to the Jewish religious people of His day:
John 5:39-42
Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. I receive not honour from men. <u>But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you</u>.

"Is it in you?" (An expression of the Gatoraide Softdrink)

- ***How do you know whether or not you have God's Love in you?***

I. We Love when <u>God</u> becomes our <u>Father</u> (John 8:42)
(Love is obtained by Spiritual Rebirth)

> *John 8:42 - Jesus said unto them, <u>If God were your Father, ye would love me</u>: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.*

Loving Jesus Christ is one of the main marks of a child of God.

The Scripture teaches that if one does not love Jesus Christ, he is headed for eternal destruction and damnation.

1 Cor. 16:22
If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

What a love for Jesus Christ Paul came to have! He who formerly hated Jesus Christ and sought to persecute anyone who belonged to Him (Acts 9:1-4) would later come to love Him. (Paul's love is reflected in all of his epistles, but mainly in his lifestyle devoted to Christ).

The acid test of loving Jesus Christ is found in obedience to His Word: "IF ye love Me, keep My commandments."

The reason we love Jesus Christ is because of His oneness with God the Father. He came from the Father's presence and was sent to the earth by the Father's authority.

As 1 John 5:1 teaches, if you love the Father, you will love the Son. You can't love one without loving the other also.

Do you love Jesus?

--When we sing songs of praise and adoration to Him, is your heart in it? (EX: "Oh, How I Love Jesus"; "Jesus is the Sweetest Name I Know")

--Do you desire to spend time in His presence? (as Mary the sister of Martha did)

--Are you motivated to live for Him, tell of Him, give to Him, and glorify Him? (Paul called himself a slave of Jesus Christ?

Love is the grand mark of the true child of God. *1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.*

II. We Love when <u>Christ</u> becomes our <u>Example</u> (John 13:34-35; 15:12; 17)
(Love resembles the Master)

John 13:34-35
A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; <u>as I have loved you</u>, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are <u>my disciples</u>, if ye have love one to another.

Compare: John 15:12; 17
This is my commandment, That ye love one another, <u>as I have loved you</u>…These things I command you, that ye love one another.

John 13:34
"A <u>new</u> commandment" – In what sense is it "<u>new</u>"?

This command was given in the Old Testament. Leviticus 19:18 said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (cp. Mt. 22:39).

It is new in this sense: "Love…<u>as I have loved you</u>." Christ's model or example gives the command a while new perspective. We are to love each other the exact same way as our Lord has loved us.

The word "new" does not mean "new" in <u>time</u>, but new in <u>quality</u>. A new, fresh ability to love with the resurrected Christ loving people through us!

This command to love is:

1) An <u>obligation</u> (not <u>optional</u>) (it's a command not a suggestion; to not love is to live in sin)

2) <u>Volitional</u> (a decision to obey, a choice)

3) <u>Modeled</u> in Christ (**"as I. . ."**)

4) <u>Reciprocal</u> (**"one another"**)

5) <u>A testimonial</u> (v. 35)

v. 35
"By this" – By your reciprocal, Christlike love.

People do not recognize us as Christ's disciples by –

--Our standards (dress, etc.), although standards are important

--Our doctrine (although doctrine is virtually important)

--Our denomination or creeds

--But by our love (and not merely our love for them [the unsaved] but by our love for each other in the family of God!)

Yes, we are to love the unsaved, but especially those who belong to Christ.

Galatians 6:10
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
What does the world think of the authenticity of your Christianity of they don't see you loving each other?

--You say Christ brings peace, yet you war with each other

--You say Christ brings joy, yet you rarely express it to your fellow brother or sister

--You say He forgives, yet you refuse to do so toward each other

--You call yourselves "family", yet you treat each other like enemies.

--You say you are born again, yet you gossip about, slander, and disrespect and dishonor those who belong to Christ.

"Behold how they love each other" was what those in the Roman world exclaimed as believers in the first century tangibly expressed love for other suffering saints.

"Behold how they love each other" ----- Today the statement could read, "Behold, how they shove each other" as they see Christians who can't get along; can't agree to disagree in an agreeable fashion.

"The disciples' responsibility was to love one another just as Christ had loved them. They would certainly need this love in the hours to follow, when their Master would be taken from them and their brave spokesman, Peter, would fail Him and them. In fact, all of them would fail, and the only thing that would bring them together would be their love for Christ and for each other." (Wiersbe, p. 349).

This love will be especially needed in the last days (when such love will begin to "wax cold") and the saints would feel a pressure to forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25).

"My disciples" – Love is the hallmark of true believer. John emphatically states this fact in his epistle.

1 John 3:14
We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 4:20
If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

III. We Love when <u>Bible Obedience</u> becomes our <u>Delight</u> (John 14:15, 21, 23) *(Love obeys God's Word)*

John 14:15
If ye love me, <u>keep my commandments</u>.

John 14:21
He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:23
Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 14:15
If ye love me, keep my commandments.

What Specific Commands (Imperatives) does Jesus give to us in the Gospels?

Jesus Commands us to Believe on Him

John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me…

Jesus Commands us to Lay up Treasures in Heaven

Matthew 6:19 ¶ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Jesus Commands us to Not Worry about Worldly Needs

Matthew 6:25 ¶ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
Matthew 10:31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Jesus Commands us to Persist in Prayer

Matthew 7:7 ¶ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Jesus Commands us to Pray in His Name

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus Commands us to Pray with Faith

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Jesus Commands us to Publicly Proclaim his Message

Matthew 10:27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.
Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Jesus Commands us to Preach the Gospel

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Jesus Commands us to Yoke up with Him and let Him be our teacher

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Jesus Commands us to be ready for His Return

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Jesus Commands us to Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Jesus Commands us to be a Servant

Mark 10:43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.
45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus Commands us to Wash the Feet of others

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

Jesus Commands us to Forgive others

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Jesus Commands us to beware of Covetousness

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Jesus Commands us to Search the Scriptures

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Jesus Commands us to Judge Righteous Judgment
John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Jesus Commands us to Love one another
John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Jesus Commands us to Love our Enemies
Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Jesus Commands us to Abide in Him (remain in close fellowship with Him)
John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

v. 15

"If ye love Me" – This clause is one of the great "if" clauses in John. Another one with a similar theme of obedience is John 13:17 -

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

"Love" – *agapao* – a God-inspired, volitional, committed, sacrificial desire to please someone. Not mere mushy feelings, but a decision to please the Lord.

This love for Christ is. . .
1) A result of the <u>new birth</u>
2) A result of the in-workings of the <u>Holy Spirit</u>
3) A <u>gift</u> from God. "Love is of God."
4) <u>Motivated</u> by <u>God's love</u> for us. "We love Him because He first loved us."

The evidence of a love for Christ is <u>not</u> mere:
1) Warm emotions toward Him
2) Religious duties done in His name
3) Head knowledge of His Word

. . . But obedience to His Word!

Third class condition – "If you keep on loving" (present active subjunctive).

"Keep" –

T.R. – aorist imperative
N.U. – future active (you will keep)

"Keep" - *tareo* = two ideas:

--To <u>guard</u> (to hold on to and not let go; to protect; this idea of guarding His Word is used in Rev. 3:10 -

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth)

--To <u>obey</u> (to fulfill; to carry out; to observe to do), as in Matthew 28:20

Both retention of our Lord's words and obedience to His words are taught by this word "keep" (v. 15, 21, 23).

"My commandments" –

"My" – Those commands issued directly by Jesus Christ (which would include the entire Word of God, but particularly the imperatives He gives in the Gospels).

"Commandments" – orders; binding imperatives; a divinely-given obligation (not optional, nor selective). A command is a "must do" situation.

[Note: Our Lord is <u>not</u> teaching us that obedience is the <u>means</u> to salvation, but the <u>manifestation</u> of salvation; not the <u>root</u> of salvation, but the <u>fruit</u> of salvation.]

Obedience is the fruit of love, which is the fruit of faith.

1. Faith ⟶ 2. Love ⟶ 3. Works

A question is asked on the Gatorade commercial: "Do you have it in you?" The same must be asked of you today regarding a love for Jesus Christ. "Do you have a love for Him in you?"

v. 21
"He that <u>hath</u>" – Obviously the prerequisite to obeying Christ's commands is to <u>have</u> them.

We possess them through His Word.

To merely "have" His commands is not the proof of love for Him – but obedience is.

"Keepeth" – A <u>present</u> tense participle implying an ongoing state of obedience, not a one-time decision (rather, a lifestyle characterized by obedience).

This does not mean that an act of disobedience demonstrates no love for Christ (although it does at that moment). But a lifestyle of obedience to His will demonstrates love for Him.

The degree of your love for Him will determine the degree of your obedience to Him. Much love equals much obedience.

"He it is" – emphatic demonstrative pronoun (*ekeinos*) – "that is the one who loves me" (Robertson, p. 254).

"He it is" – This one, this individual, this specific person [Note: Love and obedience is a personal decision; no one can do it for you.]

Although God loves "the world" in a general sense (Jn. 3:16), He has a particular, special love for those who love His Son.

Obedience to Jesus = love for Jesus. And love for Jesus results in God the Father's special love for you.

Does God love all men equally? No. He specially loves those who love His Son.

IV. We Love when Christian Unity becomes a Reality (John 17:20-26)
(Love Unites with God's People)

John 17:20-26
Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Jesus is concerned about the Spiritual UNITY of His People (v.20-23) *("Father, make them ONE")*

v. 20
Christ's prayer for sanctified saints extends beyond the first-century disciples, to all believers who would come to faith via the disciples' testimony in Scripture.

v. 21
Our oneness happens when we are a united team or "flock" set apart from the world. You cannot have Godly oneness with worldly saints. Sanctification must precede unity.

"One in Us" – Oneness is only possible because of the common relationship we have in God!

The believer's unity results in bringing the unbelieving world to faith. The world comes to realize that only God can produce a unity among diverse and numerous people.

Note: the unity of the early Church –

Acts 1:14
These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 2:1
And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:44
And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Acts 2:46
And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

v. 22
This shared "glory" is not the shared glory of Christ's deity (which He had before creation – Jn. 17:5), but it is the glory of Christ's grace and truth which He deposits in the life of all of His children.

John 1:14
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Such grace and truth is the secret to our unity.

v. 23
Christ's concern for our unity with each other is due to His concern for our unity with Him.

True unity is not <u>legalistic</u> in nature (not forced by sharing common rules); rather, it is <u>theistic</u> in nature (a result of our common relationship with God).

Not a mechanical unity (forced externals), but a spiritual unity (internal).

Psalm 133:1
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

3 Essentials to Biblical unity:

1. Sharing a common relationship
   (the oneness of being, which comes "in Christ" - see: Eph. 4:1-5)

2. Sharing common convictions
   (a oneness of thinking which comes from the Bible - Amos 3:3; I Cor. 1:10)
   Agreement not necessarily in every detail or fine point of doctrine, but in the indisputable, clearly revealed essentials.

3. Sharing a common goal
   (a oneness of service which is focused on Christ)

   Sharing a common cause

God hates discord sown among the brethren.

> It is Satan who sows tares of division (Mt. 13:39). He first divided man from God and then men from each other (Spurgeon, p. 171)

Disunity is so destructive because rather than working together you are working against each other.

Unity is:

1. Playing on the same team
2. Heading in the same direction
3. Serving the same Master

V. We Love when <u>God's Concerns</u> become our <u>own</u> (John 21:15-17)

(Love Cares for God's Family)

John 21:15-17

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Feeding God's Sheep requires a Supreme <u>LOVE FOR THE CHIEF-SHEPHERD</u>

("Lovest thou me?" - v.15-17)

The first 14 verses of John 21 set the stage for a penetrating search into the heart of the Disciple Peter.

Peter, who had boasted in Mark 14:29 that "although all shall be offended, yet will not I," but later denied the Lord 3 times, now was put to the test of how much he really did love the Lord.

Perhaps Jesus asked the question three times because Peter had previously denied Him three times.

v. 15 – Jesus asked, "Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me more than these?"

This question can be interpreted to mean "more than these do"—in which case Jesus would be reminding Peter of the proud boast he had made before the crucifixion.

Or the question may imply "more than anything else" – such as the fishing business (i.e. "Do you love me more than these fish?").

Peter's answer was, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus replied, "If you love me, feed my lambs."

The word that Jesus used when he questioned Peter's "love" comes from the Greek *agapao*, which expresses a more loyal, unconditional, volitional, God-produced, higher type of love and devotion.

In Peter's reply, he uses the word *phileo*, which denotes an affectionate love without the deep, sincere devotional qualities that *agapao* has.

v. 16
"Lovest thou me?" - This time Jesus drops the "more than these" as if to question Peter's love at an even more deep and basic level. "Do you even love Me, Peter?"

By the third time that Jesus questions Peter's love, He uses the word *phileo*, which is regarded by scholars as the reason why Peter was grieved. It seems that Jesus was doubting whether Peter even felt the lesser form of love for Him.

Peter, though, realizing that Jesus knew the thoughts and intents of the heart, replied, "Lord, thou knowest all things: thou knowest that I love thee."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (v. 17)

v. 15-17
In order for any pastor, preacher, teacher to be an effective chef and waitress "serving God's Word, we must have a love for Christ. A love for Him that is greater than our love for any other business activity or recreation.

1 John 5:1
Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

***You know you love God when you* LOVE HIS CHILDREN (v.1)**

Our response to God's giving us the New Birth into His family is gratitude. We now love Him, because He has first loved us (4:19).

"Loveth him that is begotten" - "Saint Augustine held that this phrase referred to Christ, 'the only begotten of the Father'." (Guy H. King, p. 100).

It is true that if you love the Father you will love His Son (Jn. 8:42 - Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.)

However, as Westcott saw, the whole context and book of I John would support the view that He is speaking of loving not only His Son, but His sons - "the children of God" (v. 2).

"Loveth him" (singular) - John's use of the singular throughout this verse indicates that this God-prompted love operates on an individual basis.

It's not merely that we love Christians (as a whole) (though we do). It's that we love the one sitting next to us.

"This love does not spring from something loveable in the person himself, but from his paternity" (Hodge, cited by Hiebert, p. 225).

"Everyone that loveth" - No exceptions; all who love God love His kids.

If you find that you have no common bond with Christians, that you'd rather avoid them, that their company is undesirable – then you had better doubt your relationship to God.

If you love the "Begetter," you will love the "begotten."

If you love the "Adopter," you will love His adopted.

If you love the Regenerator, you will love the regenerated.

If you love the Father, you will love the son.

You can't truly love someone and hate his kids (they are his family, his offspring, the object of is affection).

If you love God, you will love that which he loves/treasures.

The world may have a philanthropic, humanistic "love." A love for man motivated by a love for man (or by a love for self-recognition, etc.).

However, we have a greater motivated; we have a love for man because man is "created in the image and likeness of God." Hence, we love man because his life has a dignity that originated in the Almighty.

How can the Holy Spirit who lives in you do anything other than love others through you who share that same Spirit?

If Jesus live in you and if He lives in your fellow believer, don't you think that there will be a common bond between you?

If you are in the family of God, won't there be a desire to be with your family members?

--Ladies should want to come to the ladies fellowships;

--Men should want to be at the men's breakfasts;

--Christians should love to get together with other Christians.

To defect is to give indication that something is wrong (I Jn. 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.)

To love other believers should be as natural as loving your own family, because we <u>are</u> family, real family.

We know the same <u>God</u>.
We are partakers of the same <u>Spirit</u>.
We are joint heirs with the same <u>Son</u> (Jesus Christ).
We share the same <u>faith</u>.
We eat the same <u>food</u> (God's Word).
We have the same <u>name</u> ("Christian").
We will inherit the same <u>future</u> (eternal life).
We face the same <u>battles</u>.

Christ is authenticated when the world sees an authentic Christ-like love.

"Love is of God" (1 John 4:7); It comes from Him;
Do you have the Love of God in You?